

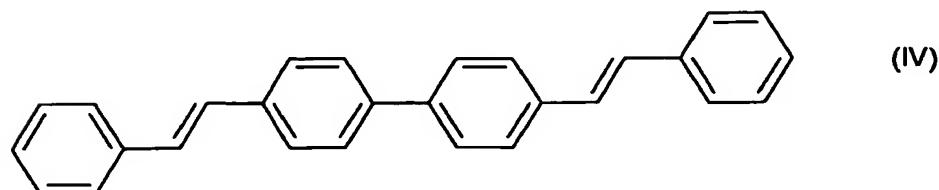
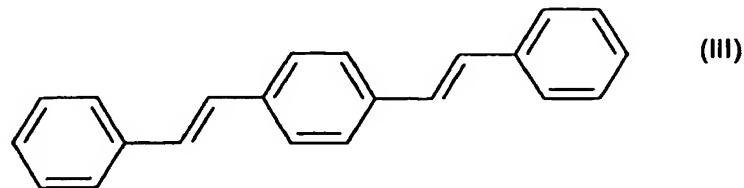
[CLAIMS]

1. A photopolymer printing plate precursor comprising in this order
5 a photosensitive coating and a protective coating on a support,
wherein said photosensitive coating comprises a composition that
is photopolymerizable upon absorption of light, said composition
comprising a binder, a polymerizable compound, a sensitizer and a
photoinitiator, and wherein said protective coating comprises one
10 or more types of poly(vinyl alcohol), characterized in that said
photoinitiator is a hexaaryl-bisimidazole compound and the mean
saponification degree of all the polyvinylalcohols which are used
in the protective coating is less than 93 mol-%, and wherein the
protective coating may comprise other water soluble polymers,
15 provided that poly(vinyl pyrrolidone) is only used from 0 to 10
parts by weight of the poly(vinyl alcohol) used.
2. A photopolymer printing plate precursor according to claim 1,
wherein the wavelength range of the light is from 350 to 430 nm.
3. A photopolymer printing plate precursor according to claim 2,
20 wherein the wavelength range is from 360 to 420 nm.
4. A photopolymer printing plate precursor according to any of
claims 1 to 3, wherein the minimum exposure for image formation,
measured on the surface of the plate, is 100 μ J/cm² or less.
5. A photopolymer printing plate precursor according to any of the
25 preceding claims, wherein the binder is a copolymer containing
monomeric units of an μ,μ -unsaturated carboxylic acid and/or an
 μ,μ -unsaturated dicarboxylic acid.
6. A photopolymer printing plate precursor according to any of the
preceding claims further comprising a polyfunctional

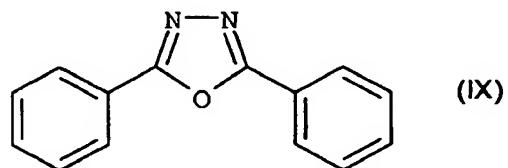
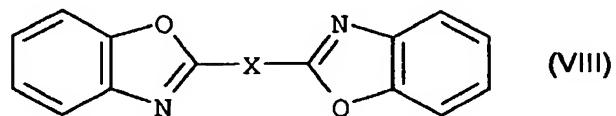
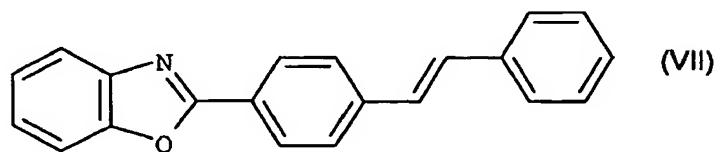
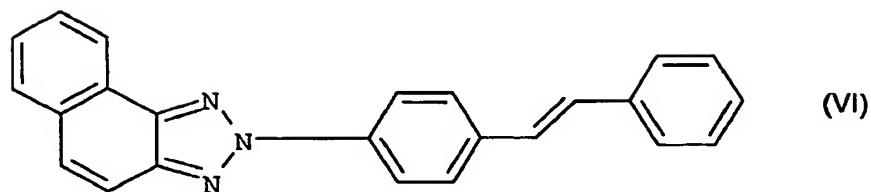
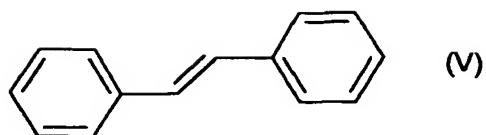
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(meth)acrylate or alkyl(meth)acrylate compound as a crosslinking agent.

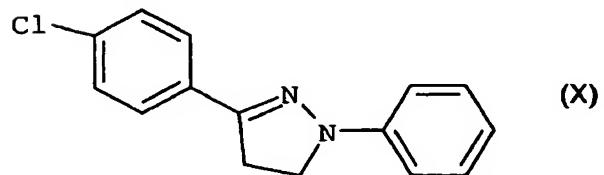
7. A photopolymer printing plate precursor according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the polymerizable compound contains an urethane and/or urea group and/or a tertiary amino group.
5
8. A photopolymer printing plate precursor according to any of the preceding claims further comprising a radical chain transfer agent.
9. A photopolymer printing plate precursor according to claim 8,
10 wherein the radical chain transfer agent is a sulfur containing compound.
10. A photopolymer printing plate precursor according to any of the preceding claims, wherein in the sensitizer is an optical brightening agent.
11. A photopolymer printing plate precursor according to claim 10,
15 wherein the optical brightening agent has a structure according to one of the following formulae:



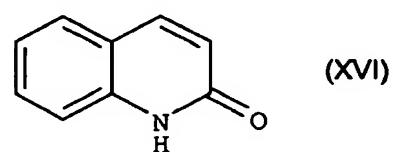
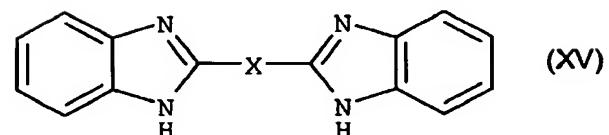
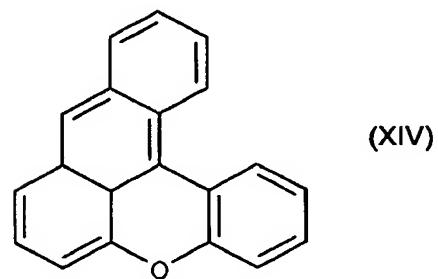
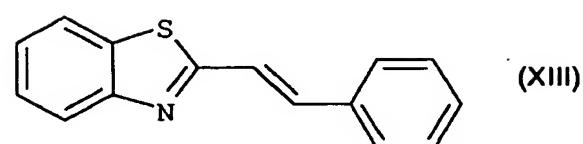
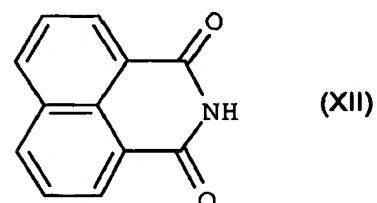
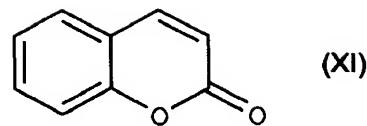
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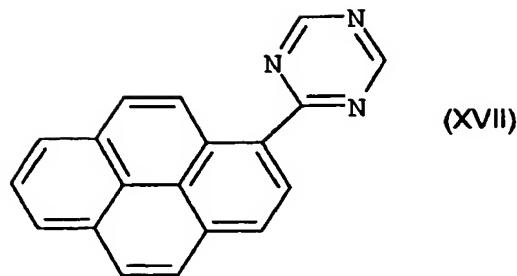
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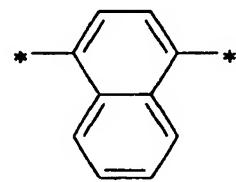
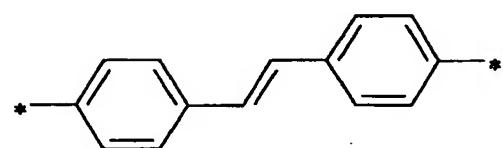
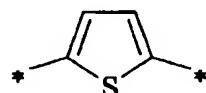
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wherein X is one of the following groups, * denoting the position of attachment in the above formulae:



5 and wherein one or more of the nuclei in each of the above formulae (III) to (XVII) may be independently substituted by one or more groups selected from alkyl, alkoxy, alkylcarbonyl,

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alkoxycarbonyl, acyloxy, carboxyl, nitrile, amino, hydroxyl, alkylsulfonyl and aminosulfonyl.

12. A method of making a lithographic printing plate comprising the steps of providing a photopolymer printing plate precursor as defined in any of claims 1 to 11, exposing said printing plate precursor with a laser having an emission wavelength in the range from 300 to 450 nm and processing the printing plate precursor in an aqueous alkaline developer.

13. A method according to claim 12, wherein said printing plate precursor is exposed with a laser having an emission wavelength in the range from 380 to 430 nm.

14. A Method according to any of the claims 12 or 13, wherein the exposure of the lithographic printing plate precursor is carried out at an energy density, measured on the surface of the plate, of 100 $\mu\text{J}/\text{cm}^2$ or less.